Legislative Assembly

Resolution on Shared Governance, Senate Consultation, and Administrative Accountability

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UCLA Office of the Chancellor

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March 6, 2026

Megan McEvoy
Chair, Los Angeles Division of the Academic Senate

Dear Chair McEvoy and Members of the Legislative Assembly:

Thank you for transmitting the Resolution on Shared Governance, Senate Consultation, and Administrative Accountability adopted by the Legislative Assembly on February 5, 2026. We appreciate the care and seriousness reflected in the resolution and welcome the opportunity to respond.

We understand this letter to serve as our report to the Legislative Assembly in advance of the April 2 meeting, and we intend it to address directly the concerns and requests outlined in your February 24 communication.

Shared governance at UCLA is strong and active across the core domains of Senate authority. Undergraduate Council, Graduate Council, CODEO, the Committee on Academic Personnel, the Committee on Privilege and Tenure, and numerous other Senate committees are deeply engaged in consequential academic decision-making. Senate review and authority over courses, curricula, degrees, academic standards, and faculty personnel processes are functioning with rigor and mutual respect. The Council on Diversity and Equal Opportunity (CODEO) and the Committee on Academic Personnel continue to shape faculty review, equity efforts, and academic standards in meaningful ways. In these areas, consultation is not merely procedural; it is determinative.

We recognize, however, that concerns have arisen primarily in domains where Senate authority is advisory under Regents Bylaw 40 – including certain operational, budgetary, and administrative initiatives. These areas are structurally more complex. The bylaw affirms the Senate's advisory role but does not define with precision what constitutes sufficient consultation, what timing is required, or how advisory input should be incorporated when final decision-making authority resides with the administration. The resulting ambiguity can create misaligned expectations even when engagement is occurring.

We do not agree that shared governance at UCLA has failed. At the same time, we acknowledge that in advisory domains there is a need for clearer, shared norms. We believe the most constructive path forward is not to relitigate particular initiatives, but to co-create a more precise, operational definition of what "advisory consultation" entails in practice.

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To that end:

- **Budget Transparency Protocol:** We are working collaboratively with you and with Interim Vice Chancellor/CFO Reem Hannah-Harwell to develop a budget transparency protocol that clarifies what financial information can be shared, at what stage, and in what format, so that Senate advice is informed and timely. This work is ongoing and reflects a shared commitment to strengthening consultation in fiscal matters.
- **Clarifying Advisory Consultation:** We propose that Senate leadership and campus leadership jointly articulate a working definition of advisory consultation under Bylaw 40, including expectations regarding timing, documentation, responsiveness, and communication. A co-created framework will reduce ambiguity and provide a shared standard against which we can evaluate ourselves.
- **Annual Shared Governance Retreat:** We have recommended establishing an annual retreat on shared governance at the start of each academic year, involving Senate leadership and key administrators. The purpose would be to (1) set clear expectations regarding the scope of Senate authority and advisory engagement; (2) identify major initiatives anticipated for the year that will require consultation; and (3) establish objective criteria for assessing how effectively we meet our shared governance commitments. Beginning each year with aligned expectations will reduce misunderstanding and allow us to evaluate both successes and shortcomings in a transparent manner.

With respect to the Assembly's request that the administration cease characterizing non-Senate working groups as consultation, we agree that administrative advisory bodies do not substitute for formal consultation with the Academic Senate and its standing committees under Regents Bylaw 40. Formal consultation must occur through established Senate governance channels.

At the same time, it is important to underscore that Senate representation within key administrative bodies is a significant enhancement, not a circumvention, of shared governance. For the first time in UCLA's history, Senate leadership are included as participants in the Chancellor's Cabinet and are key members of the Chancellor's Executive Budget Action Group. These are central venues in which strategic, fiscal, and operational deliberations occur at the earliest stages. Senate presence in these settings provides real-time visibility into emerging issues, early insight into budgetary tradeoffs, and the opportunity to raise academic considerations before positions are finalized.

This inclusion is not a substitute for consultation; it is a powerful supplement to it. It reflects a deliberate move toward greater transparency and earlier engagement in areas that have historically been opaque to faculty governance. While such representation and other advisory group participation does not fulfill formal consultation obligations, it materially strengthens

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shared governance by broadening access to information, accelerating communication, and integrating faculty leadership into core institutional deliberations.

We therefore view Senate participation in administrative groups as an important evolution in the practice of shared governance at UCLA; one that should be refined and clarified, but not characterized as inconsistent with governance principles.

In sum, we view the current moment not as a breakdown of shared governance, but as a call to refine how advisory consultation functions in practice. UCLA's shared governance system is active, consequential, and deeply embedded in our academic core. Where ambiguity exists, particularly in advisory domains, we are committed to clarifying expectations collaboratively and prospectively.

We look forward to discussing this further with the Legislative Assembly on April 2 and to continuing this work together.

Sincerely,

Julio Frenk
Chancellor

Darnell Hunt
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

cc: Kathy Bawn, Immediate Past Chair, Academic Senate
April de Stefano, Executive Director, Academic Senate
Tim Groeling, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, Academic Senate
Tara Hottman, Senior Policy Analyst, Academic Senate
Samantha Luu, Executive Assistant to the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost
Emily Rose, Assistant Provost and Chief of Staff to the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost
Julie Sina, Chief of Staff to the Chancellor

UCLA Academic Senate
Legislative Assembly

February 24, 2026

Julio Frenk
Chancellor, UCLA

Darnell Hunt
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost, UCLA

Re: Resolution on Shared Governance, Senate Consultation, and Administrative Accountability

Dear Chancellor Frenk and Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Hunt,

At the February 5, 2026, meeting of the Legislative Assembly of the Los Angeles Division of the UC Academic Senate, members unanimously approved (107 votes cast: 107 Approve, 0 Oppose) the attached Resolution on Shared Governance, Senate Consultation, and Administrative Accountability.

On behalf of the divisional Legislative Assembly, I transmit the resolution and ask for your response to the specific requests below:

- "cease characterizing non-Senate working groups and advisory bodies as consultation and instead engage in formal, timely, and substantive consultation with the Academic Senate and its standing committees, including timely and substantive responses to Senate requests;"

- "report to the Legislative Assembly on the specific steps it will take to restore meaningful consultation with the Academic Senate and its standing committees, including changes to the use of advisory groups and the provision of timely and substantive responses to Senate requests, the report to be delivered at the next meeting of the Legislative Assembly"

For the latter request, I invite you to present your report to the Legislative Assembly at its next meeting, which will be in person on Thursday, April 2, 2026. Regardless of your availability to attend this meeting, please submit a written version of your report by Wednesday, March 25, 2026, so we may include it in the meeting materials and notice.

Sincerely,
Megan McEvoy
Chair, Los Angeles Division of the UC Academic Senate

Encl.

Cc: Kathy Bawn, Immediate Past Chair, Los Angeles Division of the UC Academic Senate
April de Stefano, Executive Director, Los Angeles Division of the UC Academic Senate
Tim Groeling, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, Los Angeles Division of the UC Academic Senate
Tara Hottman, Senior Policy Analyst, Los Angeles Division of the UC Academic Senate
Samantha Luu, Executive Assistant to the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost, UCLA

Emily Rose, Assistant Provost and Chief of Staff to the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost, UCLA
Julie Sina, Chief of Staff to the Chancellor, UCLA

Resolution on Shared Governance, Senate Consultation, and Administrative Accountability

Jan 26, 2026

Sponsors:
Hiram Beltrán-Sánchez, Department of Community Health Sciences
Aparna Bhaduri, Department of Biological Chemistry
Michael Chwe, Department of Political Science
Matthew Fisher, Department of English
Andrea S. Goldman, Department of History
Yogita Goyal, Department of English, Department of African American Studies
Miloš Jovanović, Department of History
Koh Choon Hwee, Department of History
Gregory H. Leazer, Department of Information Studies

Whereas the University of California's tradition of shared governance recognizes faculty participation in the operation and guidance of the University and in sustaining academic excellence;

Whereas the University of California and its Academic Senate concur that meaningful faculty consultation requires timely access to relevant information, substantive administrative engagement, and reliance on established faculty governance bodies, and that shared governance is undermined when:

- information necessary for informed faculty advice is withheld, fragmented, or delayed;

- faculty consultation is treated as advisory in name only, without substantive response;

- decisions proceed while consultation is ongoing, rendering it ineffective or merely procedural;

- assurances are offered without supporting data or follow-up; or

- ad hoc administrative committees are substituted for established Senate bodies;

Whereas there is a multi-year record of Academic Senate requests to restore meaningful shared governance, including resolutions adopted by the Legislative Assembly on November 13, 2025, for which administrative responses have not substantively addressed the requests made by the Legislative Assembly;

Whereas recent administrative initiatives have relied on non-Senate advisory groups, including One IT working groups and the Executive Budget Advisory Group (EBAG), which are not accountable to Academic Senate governance and do not fulfill the administration's obligation to consult formally with the Senate;

Therefore be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly finds that non-Senate advisory groups cannot substitute for formal consultation with the Academic Senate and its standing committees as required under Regents Bylaw 40;

Therefore be it further resolved that the Legislative Assembly expresses its dissatisfaction with the administration's responses to the Legislative Assembly resolutions adopted on November 13, 2025, and reiterates its prior requests for transparency, accountability, and substantive engagement as set forth in those resolutions;

Therefore be it further resolved that the Legislative Assembly requests that the administration cease characterizing non-Senate working groups and advisory bodies as consultation and instead engage in formal, timely, and substantive consultation with the Academic Senate and its standing committees, including timely and substantive responses to Senate requests;

Therefore be it further resolved that the Legislative Assembly requests that the administration report to the Legislative Assembly on the specific steps it will take to restore meaningful consultation with the Academic Senate and its standing committees, including changes to the use of advisory groups and the provision of timely and substantive responses to Senate requests, the report to be delivered at the next meeting of the Legislative Assembly;

Therefore be it further resolved that, on the basis of the foregoing, the Legislative Assembly finds that the administration has failed to meet its obligations under shared governance, as defined by University bylaws.

Resolution on Shared Governance, Senate Consultation, and Administrative Accountability

Jan 26, 2026

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